PREPARING HOUSTON'S WORKFORCE FOR THE ENERGY EVOLUTION

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HOUSTON, July 30 -- The University of Houston issued the following news release:

By Rashda Khan - 713-743-7587

The greater Houston area, home to more than 4,700 energy companies, stands at a critical juncture.

Energy, especially oil and gas, has been fundamental to the region's economy, contributing a quarter of its gross domestic product. Houston-area leaders now face the challenge -and opportunity- of redefining and sustaining the region amidst a global shift towards low-carbon energy solutions. This transformation, driven by the urgent need to mitigate climate change, promises to reshape the area's economic landscape and workforce. The emerging hydrogen ecosystem alone is expected to create about 180,000 new jobs in the greater Houston area, offering an average annual income of approximately $75,000.

The University of Houston -The Energy University - is studying the challenges and considering ways to leverage opportunities presented by these changes.

UH Energy's workforce analysis found that the greatest workforce gains occur with an all-of-the-above energy strategy, balancing electrification and increased attention to renewables with liquid fuels, biomass, hydrogen, carbon capture, utilization and storage commonly known as CCUS, and carbon dioxide removal. This would support both economic and employment growth, leveraging skilled workers from traditional energy sectors like coal, oil, and natural gas, which may lose jobs during the transition.

"To sustain the Houston region's growth, it's important that we broaden workforce participation and opportunities," said Ramanan Krishnamoorti, vice president of energy and innovation at UH. "Ensuring workforce readiness for new energy jobs and making sure we include disadvantaged communities is crucial."

Under his direction, UH's Division of Energy and Innovation brought together key stakeholders from industry, academia and the community to explore the topic, leading to a collaborative white paper, titled " Workforce Development for the Future of Energy."

The white paper underscores the critical need for collaboration among government, academia, community and industry groups to address the workforce challenges and successfully meet the needs associated with this significant shift.

"The greater Houston area's journey towards a low-carbon future is both a challenge and an opportunity. The region's ability to adapt and lead in this new era will depend on its commitment to collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity," Krishnamoorti said. "By preparing its workforce, engaging its communities, and leveraging its industrial heritage, we can redefine our region and continue to thrive as a global energy leader."

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Education and economic challenges in Houston's disadvantaged communities:

To read the white paper, please click here.

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July 18, 2024

As Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast continue recovering from Hurricane Beryl, a new survey from the University of Houston and Texas Southern University is providing insight into Texans' past experiences with extreme weather, including prolonged power outages, and how those experiences impacted their preparedness for future events.

July 16, 2024

The Houston Shakespeare Festival, the professional arm of the University of Houston's School of Theatre & Dance, will celebrate its 50th anniversary season this summer with performances of two of the Bard's most beloved plays: "Romeo & Juliet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The free performances begin August 1 at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

June 28, 2024

Venkatesh Balan sees a climate hero in an unlikely little creature: microalgae that have proven remarkably effective at removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at contentservices@htdigital.in

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